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MICHIGAN STATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Mackinac Island to Host Historic Preservation Incentives Workshop for
Civic Leaders and Owners of Historic Properties**

Lansing - The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Michigan Historic Preservation Network (MHPN) will present a two-hour workshop on the basics of historic preservation tax credits for commercial and residential property maintenance and redevelopment on Monday, June 28, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The State Historic Preservation Office and the Michigan Historic Preservation Network, with support from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, have been working with city leaders to put in place the foundation necessary to preserve the island's historic character, a key to what makes the island a major draw for tourists from around the country. The workshop is part of an ongoing effort to educate civic leaders and the public about historic preservation programs.

In a recent letter to Mackinac Island Mayor Margaret Doud, State Historic Preservation Officer Brian Conway wrote: "Mackinac Island's importance to Michigan's tourism economy cannot be underestimated. The decisions made by the city's local governing bodies regarding the Island's historic integrity will affect not only the Island but the state overall. We want Mackinac Island's civic leaders to have the information they need to make informed decisions about the Island's historic resources."

According to Nan Taylor, field representative for the MHPN and the National Trust, the purpose of the workshop is to assist the Mackinac Island community in learning how to use historic preservation incentives as tools for revitalization and economic development efforts. “The Mackinac Island workshop is part of the City’s initiative to help educate both residential and commercial property owners on the details of these tax credits and how to utilize them in their rehabilitation efforts.”

The free workshop will take place in the City Hall Community Room, 7358 Market Street, Mackinac Island. For a reservation contact Kelly Bean at the City of Mackinac Island, assistant@cityofmi.org, or 906-847-6556.

“Mackinac Island is one of Michigan’s most precious assets,” stated Conway. “Preserving the historic character of the island and its buildings is vital to Mackinac Island maintaining its status as one of Michigan’s premier tourist attractions and a place that is special to Michigan’s citizens.”

The State Historic Preservation Office is part of the Michigan State Housing Development Authority. The Michigan State Housing Development Authority is dedicated to building a thriving and vibrant future for Michigan. MSHDA provides tools and resources to improve people’s lives through programs across the state. These programs assist with housing, build strong neighborhoods, and help create places where people want to live and work. MSHDA’s programs work in four areas: affordable rental housing; supporting homeownership; ending homelessness; and creating vibrant cities and neighborhoods. For further information on this or other MSHDA programs, go to www.michigan.gov/mshda.*

*MSHDA’s loan and operating expenses are financed through the sale of tax-exempt and taxable bonds as well as notes to private investors, not from state tax revenues. Proceeds are loaned at below-market interest rates to developers of rental housing, and help fund mortgages and home improvement loans. MSHDA also administers several federal housing programs.

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